

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An organic electroluminescent device comprising: a pair of positive and negative electrodes opposed to each other; and an organic functional layer formed between the positive and negative electrodes and having three or more thin films ~~including a light-emitting layer~~ each made of an organic compound, ~~characterized in that~~

wherein said organic functional layer comprises a hole transport layer, a hole injection layer, a light emitting layer, an electron transport layer, and an electron injection layer, as the thin films,

wherein the organic functional layer includes a pair of first and second layers and a third layer held between the first and second layers, each of the first and second layers being made of an organic compound a glass transition temperature of which is a first layer and a second layer holding a third layer therebetween within the thin films are made of organic compounds that have glass transition temperatures equal to or higher than a first temperature, the third layer being made of an organic compound a glass transition temperature of which is lower than the first temperature,

wherein the light emitting layer includes a phosphorescent material as a doping material.

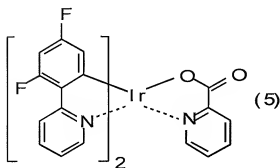
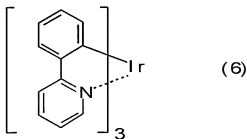
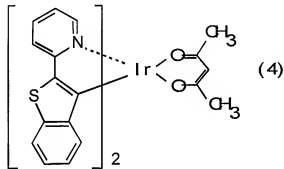
Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, wherein a difference between the glass transition temperature of an organic compound of the third layer and the glass transition temperature of an organic compound of the first or second layer is equal to or more than 12 °C.

Claims 3-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (New): The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, wherein the third layer is a hole transport layer.

Claim 6 (New): The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 5, wherein the hole transport layer is made of 4,4'-bis[N-(naphthyl)-N-phenyl-amino]biphenyl.

Claim 7 (New): The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, wherein the phosphorescent material is one selected from substances represented by the following chemical formulae (4), (5) and (6).



Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated over Kwong (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0054197) (hereinafter "Kwong").

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have newly-amended independent claim 1 and dependent claim 2, and added new dependent claims 5-7, to differently describe embodiments of the disclosure of the instant application and/or to improve the form of the claims. Applicants have canceled claims 3 and 4 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-2 and 5-7 remain currently pending and under consideration.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicants have newly-amended independent claim 1 and dependent claim 2 in order to improve the form of the claims in response to the Examiner's comments at page 2, sections 3-5 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the currently pending claims, as amended, fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated over Kwong. Applicants have newly-amended independent claim 1 and dependent claim 2 to differently describe embodiments of the disclosure of the instant application and/or to improve the form of the claims. Applicants have canceled claims 3 and 4 without prejudice or disclaimer. To the extent that these rejections might be deemed to still apply to the claims as newly-amended, they are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Regarding claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Kwong discloses an organic electroluminescent device comprising:

a pair of positive and negative electrodes opposed to each other (Figure 1, paragraphs 39-40); and an organic functional layer formed between the positive and negative electrodes and having three or more thin films (paragraph 40) including a light emitting layer (NPD) made of an organic compound, characterized in that the organic functional layer includes a first and second layer and a third layer held between the first and second layers (paragraph 40), each of the first and second layers being made of an organic compound a glass transition temperature of which is equal to or higher than a first temperature, the third layer being made of an organic compound a glass transition temperature of which is lower than the first temperature.

Applicants respectfully submit that a first feature in newly-amended independent claim 1 is "wherein said organic functional layer comprises a hole transport layer, a hole injection layer, a light emitting layer, an electron transport layer, and an electron injection layer, as the thin films." Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is supported by the specification of the instant application, taken in its entirety.

Applicants respectfully submit that a second feature of newly-amended independent claim 1 is a technical feature in that the light emitting layer includes a phosphorescent material as a doping material. Applicants respectfully submit that this amended portion of claim 1 is supported, for example, by the last three lines on page 9 through page 11, line 1 of the specification of the instant application.

Applicants therefore believe that the rejection should be withdrawn because Kwong does not disclose a combination of the first and second features mentioned above.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn because Kwong does not teach or suggest each feature of newly-amended independent claim 1 of the instant application. As pointed out in MPEP § 2131, "[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim." Thus, "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. Of California, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)."

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that the dependent claims 2 and 5-7 are allowable at least because of their dependence from independent claim 1, and the reasons discussed previously.

Applicants have further added new claims 5-7. More particularly, Applicants respectfully submit that the third layer is a hole transport layer, and the hole transport layer is made of 4,4'-bis[N-(naphthyl)-N-phenyl-amino]biphenyl, and the phosphorescent material is one selected from substances represented by chemical formulae (4), (5) and (6), as shown in the specification of the instant application. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims